

by division in the Junta, and by the treachery of its president, Don Pedro Laso, who entered into negotiations with the enemy. The final blow was struck at Villalar, where Padilla's democratic army was caught by the royalist cavalry on the 23rd April 1521, and driven into panic-stricken rout. Its leader was struck down fighting almost single-handed for " St Jago and Freedom," and, along with his associates, Bravo and Maldonada, expiated on the scaffold, on the following day, his enthusiasm in a noble but premature cause. It was in vain that his high-spirited wife, Donna Maria Pacheco, maintained for several months longer a forlorn hope in the defence of Toledo. She was forced to seek refuge in Portugal, and the revolution of the Castilian Cortes was at an end. The Junta, unfortunately, had done its best to make failure inevitable.

In Valencia and Majorca, where the revolt had taken on a social character and had been distinguished by popular excesses against the higher orders and the Moors, the combination of the burghers with the nobles ultimately succeeded in re-establishing the royal authority. When Charles again set foot on Spanish soil at Santander on the 16th July 1522 the revolutionary spirit had everywhere been cowed except in a few isolated districts.

The rout of Padilla's army at Villalar proved, according to Mr Burke, " the final destruction of the free national life of the Spanish people." " The failure of the movement," says another recent writer, Mr Butler Clarke, " so depressed the popular cause, that until the beginning of the nineteenth century the Spanish commons but rarely again raised up their heads beneath the sceptre of their absolute kings." Nevertheless, the Castilian Cortes remained, under the rule of Charles at least, an appreciable factor in government. It continued to demand redress of grievances, and this at times in very energetic language. It is even found occasionally insisting on the redress of grievances before granting supply. It resisted his claim to prescribe the mandates with which its members were entrusted by their constituents. It did not disappear into abeyance, like the States-General of France, and Charles did not venture to go the length of taxing his subjects at pleasure. His respect for tradition kept him from improving